

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of delivering at least one item or service from a provider to a receiver, the method comprising:

receiving an order for at least one item or service available from the provider and providing an order identifier in response thereto;

obtaining the order identifier from the receiver at substantially a time of delivery;

providing information regarding the order identifier obtained at the time of delivery to a financial processor;

in response to the information regarding the order identifier being provided to the financial processor, providing payment for the at least one item or service from the financial processor to the provider; and

in response to payment being provided to the provider, delivering the at least one item or service to the receiver.

2. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the information regarding the order identifier is provided to the provider prior to providing the information regarding the order identifier to the financial processor.

3. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the information regarding the order identifier is provided to the financial processor substantially immediately upon receipt at the time of delivery.

4. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the information regarding the order identifier is provided to the financial processor with other information from other transactions.

5. (Previously Presented) A system for delivering at least one item or service from a provider to a receiver, the system comprising:

a provider of at least one of an item or a service, the provider being capable of receiving an order for the at least one item or service from the receiver and providing the receiver with an order identifier in response thereto;

a deliverer;

a financial processor;

at least one communication channel for providing communication between the provider, the deliverer, the financial processor, and the receiver of the at least one of an item or a service; and,

a data gathering device for transmitting data about the order identifier obtained by the deliverer at substantially a time of delivery of the at least one of an item or service to at least one of the provider and the financial processor, whereby payment is provided for the at least one of an item or service in response to the transmitted data being provided to at least one of the financial processor and the provider and delivery is contingent upon said payment being provided.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method for obtaining payment for an item or service near the time of delivery, comprising:

obtaining an order identifier from the intended recipient of at least one of an item and a service at substantially a time of delivery for the item or service, the order identifier being received by the intended recipient in response to an order for the at least one of an item and a service;

providing information about the obtained order identifier to one of a financial processor and a provider of the item or service;

receiving a determination as to whether payment for the item or service is at least one of approved and accepted based on the information about the obtained order identifier; and

delivering the item or service to the intended recipient when the received determination indicates that payment for the item or service is at least one of approved and accepted.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein: obtaining an order identifier includes obtaining at least one piece of data selected from the group consisting of a reference number, a tracking number, an authorization number, a purchase order number, and a purchase order-type document.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, further comprising: returning the item or service undelivered when the received determination indicates that payment for the item or service is not at least one of approved and accepted.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein: providing the obtained identifying information to one of a financial processor and a provider of the item or service includes transmitting the information about the obtained order identifier to one of a financial processor and a provider of the item or service at substantially the time of delivery.

11. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the order identifier is selected from the group consisting of a reference number, a tracking number, an authorization number, a purchase order number, and a purchase order-type document.

12. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 5 wherein the order identifier is selected from the group consisting of a reference number, a tracking number, an authorization number, a purchase order number, and a purchase order-type document.